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Panhandler gets 3 years for fatally punching man

CRIME A three-year sentence was given to a panhandler who one-punched a man who refused to give him change.

Donald Foran was walking in the 4700 block of 16 Avenue N.W. with his hands full of groceries when Christopher Guthrie asked him for change.

When Foran refused, an argument ensued, and Guthrie then punched him in the face, knocking him to the concrete.

Foran died from brain hemorrhaging in hospital nine days later.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Maye

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Holy hotels a blessing

On the web

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A model showcases a design by Cybele on the first day of Air New Zealand Fashion Week 2009 yesterday in Auckland. Now in its eighth year, the event offers a glimpse of the country's emerging and established designers.

Transit torment

City may axe Quarry Park hub to speed Rapid line

SHAWN LOGAN for Metro Calgary

City transit planners may slash a major hub on its southeast Bus Rapid Transit line to quell angry riders whose commute times have soared.

Three weeks after implementing what the city touted as a speedier transit alternative for long-suffering southeast commuters, administration is now considering going back to the drawing board to address concerns over increased travel times.

And that may include the city axing one of the route's 12 stops — the Quarry Park hub — in an effort to reduce how long it takes for the high capacity shuttles to get downtown.

"We've looked at bypass-

"We've looked at bypassing Quarry Park and that could probably save about four minutes and may provide some relief."

Neil McKendrick, transit manager

ing Quarry Park and that could probably save about four minutes and may provide some relief," said Neil McKendrick, the city's manager of transit planning, who admits his office has been inundated by calls from vexed riders—some spending up to an extra 40 minutes on their commute.

"We're trying to do our best to improve travel times and we may have to make some changes."

Quarry Park is a major industrial and residential development that when completed will have as many as 9,000 workers and 2,000 homes.

Southeast Ald. Ric McIver said he's also been getting an earful from transit users and has been demanding administration come up with solutions to the problem.

"There is big-time unhappiness and I consider this an extremely high priority," he said.

"Who wants to give up an extra 40 minutes a day?"

McKendrick said the primary cause of increased transit times is because express buses no longer use Deerfoot Trail as the primary artery to the downtown core.

Cop nearly clipped by fleeing truck

SHAWN LOGAN for Metro Calgary

CRIME City cops are trying to determine whether a pepper sprayed perp intentionally aimed a vehicle at an officer.

Police spokesman Michael Nunn said officers investigating reports of a break and enter approached a parked vehicle early yesterday morning at a parking lot in the 200 block of 17 Avenue S.W. and found the occupants to be unco-operative.

When one of the cops blasted the truck with a shot of pepper spray after those inside refused to comply, the driver slammed on the gas in reverse, nearly clipping the officer before speeding away. Nunn said it's still unclear whether the driver, believed to be a female, was reacting to the pepper spray or made a deliberate attempt to hit the officer during the escape.

Police found the abandoned vehicle nearby.

"Police are still investigating to determine if this was a deliberate attack or a response to the pepper spray," Nunn said.



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Local



Crackie opens film fest

The Calgary Film Festival is celebrating its 10th anniversary with the opening of the Western Canadian Premiere of Crackie, the first feature film from Canadian director Sherry White, left. Tickets are still available for \$75 through the Festival Box Office or online at calgaryfilm.com/2009.



Calgary Tweets

•@Cristina108 Enjoying a Dos Equis at . Mexican rooftop restaurant in Sunny Calgary...it's so hot out it feels like we can be in Mexico.

- @hulaballoo Pretty certain that my potty mouth has increased exponentially due to sleep deprivation awful Calgary drivers are a trigger!
- @Keisha Lawrence Oh lala calgary weather is nice and hot today! Gotta love this, not all the wasps everywhere tho! Ugh!
- Find out what we're up to! Follow Metro Alberta publisher @steveshrout or Metro Calgary managing editor @Darren Krause



Women in Canada are waiting longer to have

children, according to the latest birth rate statistics released by Statistics Canada vesterday.

The majority of women who gave birth in 2007 were over 30 and those aged 30 to 34 had the highest birth rate of all.

Calgarian Robinson, 31, is part of that group, with a new baby born just two weeks ago, and said she thinks the experience is more enjoyable than when she had her first child 11 years

ago.

"I'm more prepared, more stable," Robinson said. "I'm more financially secure so I'm able to get out and do things with the

Kim Magotiaux owns Bellies, Babies and Beyond and said she's also seeing the trend of older moms



Kathy Robinson, 31, with Abigail Lee, two weeks, hangs out on a lazy afternoon in Calgary. Statistics Canada reports women between the ages of 30 to 34 are leading the charge in a mini-baby boom.

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in Calgary. "Thirty to 35 is

pretty bang on," said Magotiaux. "I think they said have a better sense of themselves and they feel they're in a better place to help support a family.'

Statistics Canada reported yesterday that 367,864 babies were born in 2007 13,247 or 3.7 per cent more than in 2006. That's crease since 1989.

Total fertility rates, or the average number of children per woman, increased to 1.66 in 2007 from 1.59 in 2006.

The number of babies born in 2007 was the highest since 1995 and the fifth straight annual increase. WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police seeking woman who left halfway house

WARRANT A woman, who police say failed to return to her halfway house, is wanted on a Canada-wide warrant for failing to abide by her statutory release conditions.

Jacqueline Leona Rosin, 30, is serving a three-year sentence for aggravated assault and police say she



Leona Rosin

has a violent criminal history, and is being sought by the Calgary Police Service Fugitive Apprehension Detail.

Rosin is five-foot-

three, 180 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes. She has multiple tattoos on her body. Police consider this suspect armed and dangerous and should not be approached. Anyone with information on Rosin's whereabouts should call 911 immediately or call 403-266-1234.

METRO CALGARY

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Blogs It's Called Football welcomes CBC's Jason de Vos to discuss Toronto FC's form on the road at metronews.ca

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Payphone calls now 50 cents across Alberta

MEREDITH O'HARA

Public payphone users will now have to dig a little deeper. Telus has increased the price to use a payphone in Alberta from 35 cents to 50 cents.

As cellphone use creases, the demand for payphones has fallen quickly.

"Increasing the fee is going to allow Telus to keep more pay phones in place as the use continues to fall as our costs to maintain phones remain constant," said those largely Chris Gerritsen, spokesman for Telus.

He said the number of

payphones has gone from about 38,000 phones in B.C. and Alberta in 1999 to about 20,000 phones currently. Specific figures for the Calgary area couldn't be provided because it is competitive business information, said Gerritsen.

Gerritsen said the phones are an important public service even as de-

mand for them falls. They're needed "if some-one needs to call 911 or 411 for information or to call someone if their cellphone dies.

He said the phones do still bring in revenue and the fee hike will help the company to maintain the phones still operational in the province.

News in brief

SPEAKER Social justice activist Dr. Cynthia Maung will speak this week at the University of Calgary, Maung has received many awards for her humanitarian work and is in the running for a Nobel Peace Prize. Maung is the founder and director of the Mae Tao clinic in Thailand, which provides medical care for 300 to 400 people

METRO CALGARY



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City takes possession new police centre today

4 local

The city takes possession of its new police operations centre, Westwinds Campus, today, though some sections still need to be renovated. METRO CALGARY

Bow River Summer weather sticking around



From left, Joel Slider, 27, Shannon Hobson, 22, Ria Smith, 22, and Jeff Clarke, 27, all laze around in the Bow River, watching the rafts float by. Temperatures this week will hit a high of 33 C.

Alberta to scale back long-term care: NDP

Assisted living favoured in leaked report, party says

Alberta's plans to shift seniors care to the private sector have been revealed in detail for the first time in a planning document leaked to the NDP.

The 60-page draft consulting report prepared for the province's long-term care branch in May outlines plans to scale back the ratio of nursing home and other long-term-care beds while increasing as-

sisted-living spaces.

The NDP said this makes no sense because the waiting list for long-term-care beds has tripled in recent years.

Many seniors, especially those with dementia, need to be in nursing homes, NDP Leader Brian Mason told a news conference yesterday.

"Seniors who need a high level of care will end "Seniors who need a high level of care will end up in assisted living, where they don't get that care."

Brian Mason, NDP leader

up in assisted living, where they don't get that care," said Mason.

Seniors who can't find the kind of long-term care they need will end up in crowded hospitals, Mason added.

"That backs up the emergency rooms and creates waiting lists for everything," he said. "So the government strategy not only fails seniors, but it also creates very serious

problems for our hospitals."

The leaked document says long-term care would be reduced to 20 per cent of total care space in Alberta, down from the current level of 40 per cent, according to the NDP.

Designated assisted living would be boosted to 60 per cent, while supportive living would make up the remaining 20 per cent.

But Seniors Minister Mary Anne Jablonski insisted yesterday that the government has yet to decide on any new policies for long-term care.

"No decisions have been made," said Jablonski. "We will look at having the right number of beds in the right places for our seniors so that they can get the right care in the right place." THE CAMADIAN PRESS

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Children mastering Internet early: Survey

ONLINE Tech-savvy youngsters have mastered the Internet by the time they've started elementary school, according to a Telus-funded survey.

The national Canadians and Technology survey, which polled some 4,500 people, found children are spending more time than ever online and parents are encouraging it.

Three-quarters of children in young families that use the Internet are web-

The percentage of children in young families that use

the Internet who are websavvy by the age of seven, according to a new survey.

wise by the age of seven, and 74 per cent are allowed to spend one to five hours per week online, the poll suggests.

Meanwhile, most par-

ents (69 per cent) think it's important for their children to be technologically proficient at an early age, and a full 59 per cent of teens agree that they couldn't live without the

"Each family member goes about their separate agendas, but links up at night and by new media throughout the day," said Dr. Barry Wellman of the University of Toronto.

METRO CALGARY

The Quebec coroner's office vehemently denies a report that it has concluded boxer Arturo Gatti committed suicide.

It disputes suggestions that it agrees with the Brazilian authorities, who believe the former champion hung himself. The CANADIAN PRESS

Canada



Ex-minister pleads guilty

A former provincial cabinet minister pleaded guilty yesterday for his role in Newfoundland and Labrador's spending scandal. Wally Andersen entered the plea in provincial court on charges of uttering a forgery and breach of trust, two years after he was implicated in a scandal that crossed party lines and rattled the province's political establishment. One week before he was charged, Andersen guit politics, saying the controversy had taken its toll on him.

Harper touts integrated climate plan

ENVIRONMENT Prime Minister Stephen Harper says Canada needs to take an integrated approach to the climate-change issue with the United States as a major partner.

Harper is back in the Big Apple to kick off a string of international meetings focusing on climate change, trade relations and the economy. The prime minister will attend a dinner hosted by Ban Kimoon, secretary general of the UN. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto The Rockettes



Max Mortimer and Kyle Drinkwater, both 9, get in step with Rockettes Jocelyne Levesque, left, Julie Tomaino, Laura Danelski and Kristin Jantzie at Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto yesterday. The iconic dancers will tour across Canada.

Genocide a threat: Report

Canada urged to intervene to prevent fallout

Canada and the United States should recognize that genocidal disasters such as Rwanda threaten their national interest and they should be prepared to act against such atrocities, says a new report.

While the United Nations has made much of its new "responsibility to protect" doctrine, the new report says what's now needed is "the will to intervene."

The first step to creating that will is the recognition that the fallout from humanitarian disasters can reach across oceans.

"The chaos resulting from these atrocities poses credible danger to Canadian and American national interests at home and abroad," the report says.

Frank Chalk, a Concor-



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dia University professor, recognized authority on genocide and co-director of the project that produced the report, said the threats are obvious.

"Displacement and the creation of refugee flows denies people pure water, inoculation, vaccination, treatment, etc., and creates a vast Petri dish for the development of future pandemics and infectious disease," he said.

In a world linked by jets,

contagion can leap halfway around the world in hours. "There's also the threat of terrorism arising from these events," he aded.

The old idea that only a palpable, direct threat requires action must be discarded, the 160-page report argues.

"We need to redefine our national interest more broadly, not only to help failing states, but also to help and protect ourselves."

It said Canada has to recognize that when all else fails, force may have to be used as the last resort to combat crimes against humanity. It recommends that Canada make prevention of mass atrocities a national priority.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SEX LINE Maritime lobster fishermen in need of financial help got a lift of another kind yesterday when they were directed to a toll-free number that was supposed to detail an

aid package but connected them to a lusty sex line instead.

HEALTH In the face of concerns that swine flu may mount a surge in the fall, public health

officials in Canada are rethinking their pandemic and seasonal flu vaccination plans, with issues of timing back on the table.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Actual people gather to talk Twitter

Twitter is officially the talk of the town as a two-day conference dedicated to the micro-blogging site gets underway in Los Angeles. Pro-skater Tony Hawk, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, actors Tyrese Gibson and Greg Grunberg, and addiction specialist Dr. Drew Pinsky are set to talk Twitter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

6



Women crucial to economy: Report

Lack of education for girls hampers their earning potential, costing the world's poorest countries billions of dollars a year in lost revenue, says a report released yesterday in Toronto, according to CBC News Online. "Study after study confirms that if young women are economically active, their country's economy grows and all members of their family benefit," said Rosemary McCarney, president and CEO of the Canadian arm of Plan International, which released the report.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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News in brief

FRANCE French police razed a squalid camp used by illegal immigrants in scrubland near the **English Channel port of Calais** yesterday, using backhoes and buzzsaws to clear away the dwellings. The destruction of the site ends the migrants' dreams of a new life across the channel in Britain but signifies what France hopes will be a new era in European immigration control. People who lived there tried night after night to sneak across the channel. TERROR The U.S. government expanded a terrorism warning from transit systems to stadiums and entertainment complexes as investigators searched for more suspects in a possible al-Qaida plot to set off hydrogenperoxide bombs hidden in backpacks. The warnings come amid an investigation centring on Naiibullah Zazi, who authorities say received al-Qaida explosives training and was found entering New York two weeks ago with bomb-making instructions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flood death toll rises to 9

Neighbourhoods and schools were awash in deep, murky, brown water yesterday in the Southeast U.S., and officials found a ninth storm victim who had been swept away from her car a day earlier.

Georgia officials warned worried residents to wait for the floodwaters to recede before checking out their damaged homes, and in Tennessee, a retirement cen-

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Torrential Southeast rains soaked the region for days, knocking motorists from cars and splitting at least one mobile home A Tennessee man who jumped in the floodwaters was still missing. Washed-out roads flooded freeways and around Metro Atlanta caused commuters headaches and hundreds of residents sought refuge in shelters

About 120 residents of a Tennessee retirement centre were evacuated by boats and trucks, and others were ferried from low-lying neighbourhoods and motels in a Chattanooga suburb as two nearby creeks continued to rise.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Student beating caught on video

THAILAND A teacher was captured on film beating a 14-year-old student and bashing his head against a blackboard, sparking national outrage and pledges yesterday from edu-cation officials to crack down on corporal punishment in classrooms.

The 50-second clip. filmed by a classmate using a mobile phone, was broad cast on a nationally televised morning-news program.

The teacher, 29-year-old Weerapong Pongchanoh, expressed tempered remorse at being "too violent for the public to accept."

"I feel terrible for what I did to my student," said the teacher. "But I knew what I was doing. I did not use excessive force to hurt him. Otherwise he would have started bleeding."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ex-president trapped in embassy

Deposed Honduras President Manuel Zelava and 70 friends and relatives were trapped inside the Brazilian embassy yesterday without water, electricity or phones

used tear gas and water cannons to chase away thousands who demonstrated outside the em-

bassy in Tegucigalpa. "We know we are in dan-

interviews.

"We are ready to risk everything, to sacrifice.

Zelaya, forced out of his country at gunpoint on 28, triumphantly Iune

popped up in the capital Monday, telling supporters he was ready to lead again.

Interim President Roberto Micheletti pressed Brazil to hand over Zelaya under a warrant charging treason

A 26-hour curfew imposed Monday afternoon closed businesses and schools, leaving the capital's streets nearly desert-

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ed.

News in brief

DRUGS Soldiers raiding a drug gang safehouse in northern Mexico found money-stuffed envelopes earmarked for various police forces and one marked for "press," authorities said. About \$5 million in U.S. and Mexican currency was seized. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dbama firm on terror laws

PRIVACY The Obama administration promised Congress yesterday to negotiate stronger privacy protections for Americans under terrorism surveillance.

But it insisted on retaining current authority of the Patriot Act to track suspects and obtain records.

Liberals on the House Judiciary Committee were left unsatisfied, clearly wanting the administra-tion to pledge to curb what they consider abuses of the Bush administration.

They repeatedly insisted that the law be rewritten to require better justification for wiretaps and subpoenas.

Committee chairman John Conyers, a Democrat, even compared the Obama administration's position so far to that of the Bush administration

You sound like a lot of people who came over from DOJ (the Department of Justice) before," Conyers told Todd Hinnen, deputy assistant attorney general.

Conservative lawmakers want to reauthorize the act's expiring provisions without changes, insisting the statute helped prevent attacks.

"I don't feel we should break something that doesn't need fixing," said Republican Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Ir.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Patriot Act

Three provisions of the U.S. Patriot Act are expiring. They provide:

- Roving, court approved wiretaps that allow surveillance on multiple phones.
- Authority to conduct surveillance against a so-called "lone wolf," a non-U.S. citi-
- zen engaged in terrorism.

 Businesses must produce "any tangible things" at the FBI's request.



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Comment & Views

Comment

May hopes third time is a charm



f there is a federal election this fall - and like the outlook for snow and below-freezing temperatures, the probability is high — one of the most interesting races will be in one of Canada's warmest, if not hottest, spots.

The federal riding of Saanich-Gulf Islands is in Canada's banana belt: The average January tempera-tures in Sidney, on Vancou-ver Island, 26 kilometres from downtown Victoria, both highs and lows, are above freezing. It's a nice place to come in from the cold, so you can see the attraction for Elizabeth May, the Green party leader who has struck out cold in two previous attempts to get elected to Parliament.

Three strikes and you're out usually holds in politics as well as baseball, but May has read the organic, herbal tea leaves and argues that a Green party candidate is more likely to get elected in Saanich-Gulf Islands than anywhere

At first blush, it makes sense. The riding includes that ultimate eco-hippie enclave, Salt Spring Island, not to mention Pender, Saturna, and Galiano, Gulf Islands, that have an exotic, almost mystical resonance to people living in Ajax or North Battleford.

Yet does May really un-

derstand what's she get-ting into? She recently rented a house in Sidney, so the evidence indicates she's been there, but as she walks down the main street, she can be forgiven for having misgivings.

For right in the middle of the "downtown" strip is planted the very permanent constituency office of Gary Lunn, the federal minister of state for sport. Conservative Lunn has been electable money in the bank since 1997, while the Liberals, the Greens and the NDP have split the

centre, left and the environment vote into various fragments. As in the last election, the Liberals have recruited an environmentalist, University of Victoria climate change re-searcher Renée Hetherington, to muddy, if not foul, the waters.

And Sidney is the retirement capital of the retirement capital of Canada. Of the 11,000 people who live there, more than 35 per cent of them are older than 65 — 63 per cent are 45-plus. Sidney boasts six retirement homes, five

cemeteries ... and one rec centre. These people aren't big on change and that nice Gary Lunn will do just fine. One point in May's favour — they're all from somewhere else, too, so the charge that she's a democracy-busting parachute candidate won't work against her the way it did in Central Nova, N.S., scene of her last defeat.

I just hope she knows how to pour tea, lots of tea.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: Do movies have the power to sway opinion on hot-button topics?

Cindy Rafols

age 25, Calgary

A: A lot of people now, they watch now, they watch movies at home. That's a good way of trying to influence people.

Alex **Doukas** age 24, Calgary

A: There are movies like Age of Stupid, which is about climate change ... and I think they do have the potential to

Sarah McKenzie age 28, Halifax A: Maybe docu-

mentary films — if vou don't know too much about a subject and you have a certain opinion documentary film change public opincould change your

Al-Rewashdy age 22, Ottawa

A: It depends how educated you are. I know a lot of neople who will watch a movie and treat it as fact.

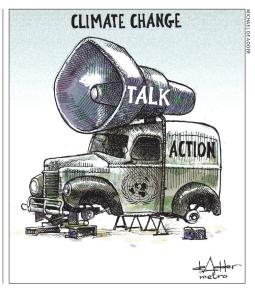


A: Movies can definitely change minds — they show different opinions and just puts them

Randy Ai **Brandy** age 24, Toronto

A: When they become really popular they can take an is-sue ... and bring it to the forefront of public education because it creates buzz ... It gets people talking.





Tell us your views by email to calgaryletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrocalgary

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GM to add shifts at U.S. factories in 2010

General Motors says it will add a third shift to its Fairfax plant in Kansas City in January, followed in April by third shifts at factories in Michigan and Indiana. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

Retailers score points with recession weary

Some of Canada's major retailers say the second half of the year is shaping up to be a positive one, and those companies that focus on promotions and lower price points are well positioned to take advantage of recession-weary consumers.

Jurgen Schreiber, CEO of Shoppers Drug Mart Corp., said yesterday the drug store chain has taken advantage of its Optimum rewards program to lure price-conscious customers during the economic down-

"Customers love Opti-

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mum, and in a recession they love it even more,' Schreiber said yesterday at a Scotia Capital conference on consumer trends.

Sixty-five per cent of instore transactions are now done using the card, he

Meanwhile, consumer product manufacturer Dorel Industries Inc. said the company's main products, which include child car seats, home furniture and bicycles, have proven resilient in the economic downturn.

"Our price points fit the times," said Dorel chief ex-ecutive Martin Schwartz, speaking at the same conference.

The conference came as Stats Can reported yester-day announced the value of retail sales fell 0.6 per cent during July.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

CORRECTION Direct investors who trade frequently with RBC can achieve rates as low as \$6.95 or \$9.95 per trade — a huge savings over RBC's standard commission fees that start from \$28.95 per trade. Incorrect information appeared in yesterday's Metro. Metro apologizes for the error.

COMPUTERS The worldwide personal-computer market is pulling out of its slump quickly and could defy predictions by

growing this year, Intel Corp. CEO Paul Otellini said yesterday. Otellini's comments at a conference Tuesday were more bullish than many analysts have been. Market research firms IDC and Gartner have both predicted a year-overyear decline in PC shipments in 2009, which would be the first such drop since 2001. The market has been dragged down by a clampdown in corporate spending on new PCs.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Facebook defriends Beacon

TECHNOLOGY Facebook is shutting down its much-maligned Beacon marketing program, launched nearly two years ago amid fanfare only to generate a storm of privacy complaints over the tracking of user activities.

Facebook agreed to end Beacon and create a foundation to promote online privacy as part of a \$9.5-million settlement in a lawsuit over the DIOGRAM. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS







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10 business

Toronto company takes on Microsoft over patent

Toronto-based i4i is up against giant Microsoft Corp. in a patent dispute. i4i has argued successfully in court Microsoft knowingly violated a U.S.issued patent owned by iti because of the way that the widely used Word word-processing program handles documents. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

MINING Environmentalists say a natural treasure in the U.S. is threatened by proposed coal and gold mining in southeastern B.C., and they'll ask UN environmental experts later this week to put some pressure on the province to stop the developments. The UN environmental experts are currently in Montana gathering information about the potential damage B.C. mining proposals could inflict upon Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park in that state, a UNESCO

World Heritage Site and biosphere reserve. MARKETING Yahoo Inc. believes a lot of its good work has been overlooked by investors and the media so it's spending more than \$100 million to get the word out to

consumers directly. The money is going toward the Internet company's most expensive marketing campaign since Stanford University graduate students Jerry Yang and David Filo started Yahoo's website 15 years ago. METRO NEWS SERVICES

British firms fined \$200M for bid rigging

Britain's competition watchdog yesterday said it has imposed fines totalling 129.5 million pounds (\$226 million) on 103 construction companies that it said had colluded in bidding for contracts.

Eighty-six of the 103 companies were given lower penalties because they admitted their involvement in bid rigging, the Office of Fair Trading said. The agency said it discovered the practice, also known as cover pricing, in bidding for 199 projects between 2000 and 2006.

In these cases, some contractors submitted inflated bids that were intended to

let a competitor gain the contract. In 11 cases, the office said, the low bidder faced no competition because all the other bids had been inflated. The agency said it also discovered six instances in which the successful bidder had paid kickbacks of between 2,500 pounds and 60,000 pounds to unsuccessful bidders. The violations were found in both public and private construction projects

Andy Brown, analyst at Panmure Gordon&Co., said the total fine "is not as bad as expected," and said the OFT action should have no major impact on the construction sector.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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MLB goes to China

Major League Baseball is opening a development centre in China. The centre for boys of middle school and high school age is to open today at Wuxi's Dongbeitang High School in eastern China. The centre will provide baseball training and English lessons. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Sports



Bundchen, Brady sued

Two photographers filed suit yesterday against supermodel Gisele Bundchen and New England quarterback Tom Brady, left, for \$1 million, saying they were shot at in April during the couple's postwedding party in Costa Rica. The photographers accuse Bundchen and Brady of negligently hiring security for the party. Agents for both Brady and Bundchen declined comment.

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

4 months out, Olympic sites still under construction

They were whizzing down the bobsled run and lifting off into space from the Olympic ski jump last year.

The venues that will be used by athletes at the 2010 Winter Olympics have been ready, for the most part, for more than a year.

But the modern-day Games are about far more than building a rink or taking down a few trees to build the perfect downhill run, and there are still a million details and a lot of construction left to make Vancouver-Whistler ready to host the world come Feb. 12, 2010.

The Olympic celebrations plaza in Whistler is a mess. Bright yellow con-

2010 Games

struction equipment sits in a giant empty field, and workers on the weekend were madly excavating piles of dirt and rock as others carried 20-foot-long sections of orange pipe back and forth.

And down at Whistler Olympic Park in the Callaghan Valley, workers with pick-axes yesterday were working to ready the spectator viewing area at the bottom of the towering ski jump.

"Even GM Place, perhaps the most elaborate ice facility ever for the Olympics, still needs extra dressing rooms and all sorts of additions — doping control, security, you name it," Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic chief John Furlong told the Toronto Star in an interview.

It's manageable, but the work is taking place in a harsh economic climate nobody at VANOC figured they'd be facing as little as 14 months ago. Marketing had been a huge success, and officials were bringing in record sponsorship dollars.

They've had to trim some niceties from around the edges, but the International Olympic Committee rode to the rescue a month or two back with a sort of bailout. Furlong can now

breathe a little easier, but he has promised a balanced budget and is facing considerable pressure to deliver.

"The amount of work that has to be completed over the next four months is tenfold more complex, more detailed, than any period along the way," he explained.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Blue Jays Walkoff win



Toronto's Jose Bautista celebrates with Edwin Encarnacion while scoring the winning run on an Aaron Hill game-winning walkoff double last night in the 11th inning. The Blue Jays beat the Baltimore Orioles 6-5 on the night.

Sports in brief

SENTENCED Former Super Bowl star Plaxico Burress was sentenced yesterday to two years in prison after accidentally shooting himself in the thigh at a nightclub and later reaching a plea deal on weapons charges. Burress was indicted on two counts of weapon possession and one count of reckless endangerment and pleaded guilty Aug. 20. He had faced a minimum sentence of 3-½ years on those charges if convicted at trial.

TENNIS Former No. 1 Justine
Henin yesterday announced her
return to competitive tennis for
next year. Henin had been retired
for just more than a year, but at
27 she again has the fire and
physical strength to compete for
an eighth Grand Slam title.

DRUG POLICY NFL players have been warned the league's drugtesting program is still in effect despite commissioner Roger Goodell's ruling to delay suspending several players who tested positive for a banned substance. In a joint memo issued by the NFL and the NFL Players Association, players were reminded they will continue to be tested and "a positive test will generally result in a suspension."

BASEBALL The St. Louis Cardinals yesterday voided the contract of 16-year-old Wagner Mateo from the Dominican Republic after he failed a physical.

POLITICS Curt Schilling announced last night he won't run for Edward M. Kennedy's seat in the U.S. Senate.

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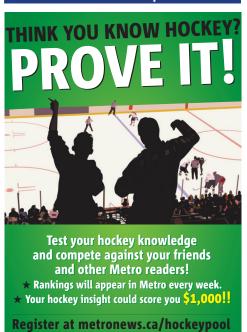
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A car fuelled by a blend of algae-based gasoline has completed a ten-day trip from San Francisco to New York City. The tour was sponsored by the Veggie Van Organization along with the support of algae-based renewable fuel company Sapphire Energy, and covered 6,035 kilometres. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Metro Drive

Safety award winners

Across America on algae power

The 2010 Dodge Journey, Lincoln MKT (pictured) and Mazda3 have been named Top Safety Pick award winners by the U.S. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). To qualify for an award, a vehicle must earn a "good" rating in the Institute's tests, and be equipped with electronic stability control. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR, SAHA @ METRONEWS, CA

BlueZERO concept looks at city mobility

ELECTRIC VEHICLE The nearseries Mercedes-Benz Concept BlueZERO E-Cell Plus electric car combines environmentally friendly electric mobility in the city with unrestricted suitability for long-distance driving.

This is made possible with the combination of the battery-electric drive and a combustion engine.

The range extender gives the BlueZERO E-Cell Plus a total range of up to 370 miles, with some 100 km



solely under electric power and thus free of local emissions

The electric motor of the purely battery-powered BlueZERO is combined with an additional three-cylinder, turbocharged petrol en

gine. Putting out 50 kW, the compact combustion engine is installed in the area of the rear axle and can charge the battery while the car is being driven.

The long combined range makes the concept fully suitable for everyday use and assures that the customer will reach their destination even with a depleted battery. The car can be refuelled quickly and easily at any normal filling station.



Outlander works

Compact SUV a standout in segment

JIM ROBINSON for Metro Canada



When I drove the second generation Outlander back in 2007, I noted Mitsubishi officials were calling it, and the Lancer, the most important cars in the company's short Canadian history.

short Canadian history.
When Mitsubishi arrived here seven years ago, it did so with a collection of vehicles that were lagging behind the curve

The Outlander and Lancer set the tone for vastly different lineups of vehicles that have now arrived like the Eclipse Coupe and Spyder, the Ralliarts, the Sportback and the mighty EVO GSR and MR.

Along with new dealerships and new wares, Mitsubishi hoped Canadians would take a second look and it seems to be working.

The 2009 Outlander is longer, wider and taller than the previous generation primarily to offer five-or seven-passenger seating.

Seven-seat models have a standard under-floor stowage compartment and a compact third row seat that folds flat into the floor when

2009 Mitsubishi Outlander

Type: Compact SUV Price: from \$24,998 Engine: 2.4-litre SOHC inline four-cylinder (168 hp, 167 lb/ft); 3.0-litre SOHC V6 (220 hp, 204 lb/ft)

Highlights

- Longer, wider and taller
- Plenty of options

not needed. Five-seat models also feature an under-floor storage bin. The second-row seat has 60/40 split fold-and-tumble seat backs that expand cargo capacity.

The second-row 60/40 seats fold independently and offer a 3.15-in. fore/aft slide range to optimize passenger room or cargo room.

When it bowed as a 2007 model, the Outlander was fitted with a 3.0-litre V6 but now a 2.4-litre inline SOHC four-cylinder has been added and found on the entry-level ES. It produces 168 hp and 167 lb/ft of torque. The transmission is a CVT with an adaptive shift system that lets the driver shift "manually".

Fuel consumption is rated at 10.5/7.8L/100 km city/highway for the FWD and 10.6/8.0L/100 km for the AWD.

Pricing starts at \$24,998 for the ES FWD and \$26,998 for the ES AWD.

The mid-trim level LS and toptrim XLS Outlander models use the same 3.0-litre V6 with 220 hp and 204 lb/ft of torque. Drive is through a six-speed Sportronic automatic transmission with optional magnesium steering wheel paddle shifters on the XLS model.

Pricing for the LS starts at \$27,998 while the Outlander XLS starts at \$32,196. Tested here is the XLS with the \$4,000 optional Navigation and Entertainment Package. It builds on the Sun and Sound Package adding a GPS navigational system, 40-gi-gabyte hard disc drive, seven-inch front touch screen monitor, nine-inch monitor for the DVD system in the rear and a back-up camera.

In the still red-hot Canadian compact SUV/CUV segment Mitsubishi has a story to tell and a very good product in the Outlander.

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's GM Choice





Mazda will be selling its B-segment car Mazda2 in North America and Canada next year. The North American-specific Mazda2 will be unveiled at the 2009 Los Angeles Auto Show, with further information and pricing to follow closer to launch. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Who's distracted?



nce the law is in effect next month, it will be illegal in Ontario, like it is already in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Quebec, to talk, text or email on any hand-held cell phone while wearing phone wearing white pants.

Sorry, got distracted... Better turn this off...

The ban is actually on hand-held cellphones while driving.

B.C. will be next to join the party. P.E.I., Manitoba, Saskatchewan are mulling it over. Alberta looked it over and said, "no thanks."

One can see why this issue is not a slam-dunk decision for many jurisdictions.

For one thing, studies continue to point out that hands-free is not substantially safer than handsheld.

Even the Canada-based Coalition for Cellphone-Free Driving is not keen on hands-free legislation. Actually they are more than 'not keen" — they are ve-

hemently opposed to it.

"It's the conversation that's the distraction, not whether it's on hands-held or hands-free," says Dr. Louis Francescutti, the Edmonton emergency physician who founded the coalition.

Francescutti adds that research has definitely proven that humans are not designed to multi-task: "We're designed to do one thing at a time, and to do it

properly." As he tells me this over the phone, I picture a cave man, with spear in hand, stealthily tracking some suitable game, then stopping to take a call on his Blackberry, then getting run over by a herd of wild beasts.
"When jurisdictions are

looking at furthering legislation to increase road safety, they really have to look at the big picture," noted Marc Choma, spokesperson for the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association. "I think you can tend to give people a false sense of security when you start picking and choosing (potential in-car) distractions."

Of course this line of reasoning falls into the "how can you legislate common sense?" camp. You can legislate cellphone use, but can you legislate other distractions in the car, like cheeseburgers, vanilla lattes, inflatable dolls, CD changers, schnauzers, you name it?

Technology also has a role. Consider Ford's SYNC system, a voice-activated way for drivers to use mobile phones and digital music players.

Kerri Stoakley, communications manager, Ford of Canada, noted that SYNC is designed to keep the drivers' eyes where they should be — on the road.



Using cellphones while driving is becoming a no-no in many Canadian provinces.

"Drivers are going to have conversations, read maps and directions, and listen to music while they drive — Ford SYNC helps drivers perform these tasks safer.

"Our research shows for example, that manually operating (not talking on) phones is substantially more distracting then using a voice interface, that typical eyes-off-the-road times to select a specific song were more than 25 seconds with a hand-held music

player versus about two seconds with SYNC, and that average eyes-off-the-road times to find a contact were 14.7 seconds with a handheld cellphone as compared to 3.2 seconds with SYNC."

Mazda2 coming

There's also the possibility that engaging in distracting activities while driving, will simply be-come socially unaccept-able one day, like wearing white pants after Labour Day, or making mini sculptures out of ear wax.

Until that time comes, there will be more legislation, more calls for common sense, and more technology advances.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

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On the go ...

If you must take your cellphone with you in the car. consider these safety tips:

- Ask, "Do I really need to take that call?" Let most or all - calls go to voicemail.
- Install your hands-free kit
- before you start driving. Keep conversations brief. For example, don't call your "ex" to go over that breakup.

Texting? You got to be kiddina? More tips at focusondrivina.ca.

smart frugal but high maintenance

JUSTIN PRITCHARD for Metro Canada

MODEL: smart fortwo. 2005-2006

VEHICLE TYPE: Compact 'Minicar APPROXIMATE USED PRICE

RANGE: \$8,000 to \$13,000

HISTORY/DESCIPTION: The fortwo took the market by storm for the 2006 model year with its tiny diesel engine and stare-grabbing cuteness. The successor to this original is now on sale, with a gas engine.

fortwo boundaries of age and gender as a frugal and cheapto-run car that can be

enjoyed by anyone. As a maneuverable runabout or a cheeky weekend escape-pod, it's appealing on numerous levels.

The big draw to the fortwo is its minimalist approach to fuel consumption and spacehogging. Get over the funny looks and lawn-equipment levels of performance, and you'll likely find the firstgeneration fortwo is as charming and sensible as a four-wheeled scooter with a roof.

OWNERS WHAT LIKE: Owners of **Second** the first-gen fortwo love the Gear low fuel consumption minimal refueling trips. Ease of park-ing and maneuverability are also among the cars most highly rated attributes. Build quality levels

are appreciated, and many

owners use comments like

'fun to drive' and 'eye catching' to sum up their experiences.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: The fortwo's transmission is its biggest weakness, and many owners describe it as jerky, abrupt and unrefined. A more major owner complaint deals with servicing costs. Since smart vehicles are sold and serviced by Mercedes Benz dealerships, labor rates can easily exceed \$100/hour.

COMMON ISSUES: Be sure the air conditioner is in proper working order on a



The smart fortwo took the market by storm for the 2006 model with its tiny diesel engine and cuteness.

test drive, and check for any 'check engine' lights, too. The latter could indicate numerous problems with the diesel emissions system or the engine itself - so be sure the light isn't

illuminated. Check for yucky mildew or moisture on the carpeting in the driver footwell, as a leaky seal could let water into the cabin. This is an easy and cheap fix.

For the month of September, Metro's Workology section will be focusing on the extremely lucrative and soon to be booming employment sector of skilled trades. So be sure to read Workology and metronews.ca/work every day.

metro 15

Workology

Soccer team suspended

Carleton University gave its entire women's soccer team a two-game suspension after a rookie initiation party involving "excessive alcohol" and "embarrassing" drinking games left one intoxicated player taken to a hospital. Carleton's athletics director says the entire team breached the code of conduct set out by the athletics department. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

The nuts and bolts of carpentry

Skilled Trades

JON TATTRIE for Metro Canada

The skilled trade crucial to building homes - carpentry — is in huge demand. While would-be tradespeople learn on the job in some fields, studying at college and doing an apprenticeship might give others an edge.

The Nova Scotia Community College offers a range of trades courses, including carpentry. Dean Dort teaches carpentry at NSCC and says the demand is high for qualified carpenters; the course itself has a year-long waiting list.

"They're not coming out



Skilled trades work in carpentry is plentiful, one expert says.

of here as full-blown carpenters, but they are coming out with a good base knowledge to build on," he says.
"A lot of them, as soon as

they're done school, they have jobs lined up. If you can't find work as a carpenter, you're not looking."
The two-year course gives

They perfect their trade in a two- or three-year paid apprenticeship after graduation. Dort says classes in the first year cover the basics, taking people who may know nothing about car-pentry and giving them a solid foundation in the tools and techniques of the trade.

"The first-year instructors start with a test that goes from as easy as two plus two to figuring out the volume of a cylinder to get a feel for where everyone is at," Dort says. The second vear focuses on more complex projects like circular stairs, unequal pitch and in-tersecting hip grooves. Mandatory work terms give students a chance to try their new skills and make useful work contacts.

"When they finish the second year, they are credited with 2,000 hours toward their apprenticeship. They then go out and work in industry," Dort says. This twoyear on-the-job training fills

things like timber and roof framing, preparing them to become journeymen car-penters, the highest rank.

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\$14M for Queen's green chemistry centre

The Ontario government announced last Friday \$13.6 million in funding for GreenCentre Canada, based at Queen's University. The centre will connect green chemistry discoveries in provincial universities with companies to produce alternatives to toxic chemicals. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Quagmire created with no retirement age set

Workplace Law

Daniel
Lublin

Metronews.ca/workplacelaw

hen most Canadian jurisdictions cently eliminated mandatory retire-ment, workplaces across the country were forced to quickly adapt. With an ageing workforce, and compulsory retirement no longer an option, employers were suddenly faced with fewer options to transition older employees into retirement. As this scenario unfolded in courtrooms across the country, various lessons were learned:

This month, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled in favour of two Air Canada Pilots who com-

plained that their forced retirement at age 60 was discrimination. The Tribunal initially rejected their complaints based on an exemption that permitted employers to retire them if the retirement age was an industry standard. But on appeal the Tribunal ruled that Air Canada could not properly justify the policy. The decision is explosive as it applies equally to all federally regulated employers, who will now be revisiting their policies.

Although there is no legal distinction between an older employee and his younger counterpart, workplace changes should be considered under the lens of the employee's ability to adapt. When B.C. lumber company, Lakeland Mills, took various steps to retrain 66 year old Kathleen Fisher in order to fill a vacant position, it did not believe it was forcing Fisher to retire. However, as mandatory retirement was

still in effect in British Columbia, Fisher was concerned. When couldn't master the new role, she spoke with the company president telling him she was being forced to retire. When he did not disabuse her of this perception, she left and successfully sued for constructive dismissal. changes to Fisher's job, however minor, were magnified when her age limited her ability to respond to the new work or her employer's efforts to train

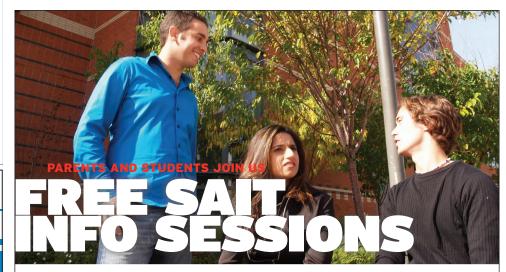
Employers are also unable to use workplace policies, such as pension plans, to subvert the legislation. Recently, the B.C. Court of Appeal found that 65 year old Stuart Johnson had accepted mandatory retirement as a term of his employment by voluntarily joining his company's pension plan and continuing to work for years with knowledge that the

mandatory retirement policy applied to him. As Johnson's lawsuit was "grandfathered" under the old legislation, the Court did not find there was discrimination. However, today, the result would be very different. As every province except for New Brunswick has eliminated a retirement age from its legislation, employers can no longer force employees to retire without a human rights complaint or significant lawsuit.

Similarly, if firing older employees, employers cannot discount severance entitlements. If employers wish to terminate older employees, the customary employment law principles regarding severance will have to be considered and then provided.

READ THE WHOLE ARTICLE AT
METRONEWS.CA/WORKPLACELAW

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.



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Mexico travel stavs strong

Despite concerns about Influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, and drug-related crime, Mexico took four of 10 spots on a list of top fall destinations booked through Travel Leaders. Cancun was No. 2, Riviera Maya was No. 3, cruises to Mexico were No. 7 and Playa del Carmen was No. 10. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS 17



A river runs through it

UNDERGROUND

If you've ever tried to navigate the London Underground at length, you may have discovered the system isn't as simple as its colourful, iconic map would suggest. And the price of arriving at the wrong destination? A lot of walking, stair-climbing and explaining to ticket collectors why you bought the incorrect fare. So it's with trepidation that we note the new Underground. why you bought the incorrect fare. So it's with trepidation that we note the new Underground maps are inexplicably missing the River Thames, a rather key piece of the city's geography. Next time we visit, we'll be hunting down an old map to bring along.

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

hotels with holy provenance

EMMA E. FORREST Metro World News

You won't find a party atmosphere when you stay overnight at a convent or monastery, but you sure can't knock the experience for novelty value.

Many such institutions offer plain but clean rooms or dormitory style accommodation, although don't expect cable TV or a Michelin-starred room service

Some may even expect you to join in daily prayer sessions or impose evening curfews, which is not ideal if you're looking for a clubbing holiday.

But not all holy hotels are austere and guilt-commanding; some are upbeat and wholesome health farms, others are now luxurious five-star retreats



A view of the wine cellar at the Convento do Espinheiro in Evora, Portugal

that benefit from the beauty of the building and surroundings.

Here's our guide to the hotels and hostels that could be the answer to your holiday prayers.

Convento do Espinheiro, Evora, Portugal

What was once a con-

vent visited by royalty has been transformed into a super luxurious retreat, making splendid use of the building's stunning features.

There's been a convent in this location just outside the UNESCO town of Evora in the rustic surroundings of the Alentejo

region of Portugal since

Nowadays the lodgings have been transformed into majestic suites and a gourmet restaurant is located in in what used to be the wine cellar. There are wine-tasting sessions in the cloisters and a beautiful church — covered in

hand painted tiles and gold engravings — which holds monthly mass as well as occasional weddings and christenings.

The Convento has just opened its fabulously hip modern wing with rooms featuring contemporary art and designer furniture, and in the spacious but manicured garden there's a pool area that wouldn't look out of place in Miami. From about \$360; conv entodoespinheiro.com.

Read more on page 19

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New York	from \$429
	+ taxes & fees \$126
Honolulu	from \$539
	+ taxes & fees \$110
Bangkok	from \$869
	+ taxes & fees \$297

International Holidays

Auckland Air + First 3 Nights

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Thailand 7 Nights +

Cooking in Koh Lanta

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Sydney Air + First 2 Nights

+ Activity

From \$ 1785 + taxes & fees \$398 INCLUDES transfers, middle harbour cruise and 2-day See Sydney & Beyond Smartvisit Card. ADD Hunter Valley Wine & Wilderness tour from \$219.

Holidays

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights

UPGRADE to 4.5-star including 2 tickets to Mystere by Cirque du Soleil from \$33 per night. ADD Las Vegas night Strip helicopter tour from \$79.

London

Air + First 2 Nights

INCLUDES first 2 nights accom with daily breakfast.

ADD 4-day Oyster pass from \$66.

Anaheim Family Special

from \$329* + taxes & fees \$133 Air + 4 Nights

INCLUDES accom near Disneyland Resort. ADD Disneyland Resort Park Hopper ticket from \$189.

All-inclusive Holidays

Puerto Vallarta

7 Nights 4-Star

Mayan Riviera 7 Nights 4-Star from \$597 + taxes & fees \$270

Mazatlán 7 Nights 5-Star

Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star

Los Cabos 7 Nights 5-Star



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Travellers arriving at Halifax Stanfield International Airport are being reminded that the city is the hometown of hockey superstar Sidney Crosby. A banner showing the Pittsburgh Penguins captain hoisting the Stanley Cup has been hung in the arrivals area. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Catacombs shuttered in wake of vandalism

ATTRACTIONS Paris' underground bone collection, the catacombs, has been closed to the public indefinitely after being vandalized. Ordinarily, the creepy collection of human remains — cleared from city cemeteries long ago — is orderly, with bones piled in stacks along underground tunnels. But a post-vandalism photo in Le Parisien newspaper showed bones and skulls scattered along the walking paths.

Isabelle Montagne, the spokeswoman for the Paris prosecutor's office, said that an investigation has been opened into the weekend incidents.

The catacombs have been closed because the littered site has become hazardous, she said. Montagne and a police spokesman declined to give details of the damage. The catacombs are a

underground network tunnel of tunnels holding the bones of more than six million Parisians. Near the end of the 18th century, Paris' cemeteries were filled to capacity, so city officials decided to transfer the contents of graves to quarries.

The section open to the public is only a sampling of the secret world: About 300 kilometres of tunnels like beneath the city.

The catacombs are visited by 257,000 tourists each year, according to city historical officials.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Website uncovers the friendly side of Paris

A cure for Parisians' brusque, haughty reputa-tion may be at hand. Take a website, add a hint of anise-based pastis liqueur, a game of petanque and international travellers ready to mingle.

Two young entrepreneurs are introducing visitors to Paris life à la française. On a recent evening, brought out the they pastis, some water to mix it with, fruit juice and Coca-Cola for an international happy hour al fresco. With the Eiffel Tower in the background, people opened snacks and bottles and started chatting.

Remi Brichant, 25, and

Guillaume Giler, launched a website in May that organizes social events, EnjoYourParis.com. idea came from a personal travel experience. When Giler studied abroad in Australia a few years ago, he was put in touch with a local student who showed him around his new campus and introduced him to people.

Brichant and thought Paris should have a similar service and decided to take the concept further by creating special events where international visitors could meet Parisians to talk, share and just have fun. In a few months, some 600 members signed up.

"In Paris, there are so many foreigners, and Parisians are known to be difficult to meet," Giler said.

As the sun set and the evening light grew pink, a group of approximately 20 people formed around the table, introducing themselves to one another, mostly in English or French.

Aurelie Bernos.



Parisians and tourists gather on the Champ de Mars, near the Eiffel Tower in Paris, for a game of petanque and a glass of pastis. They connected via EnjoYourParis.com, a site that provides a way for visitors to get a taste of Parisian life.

poured drinks. She grew up in Paris and lived in Australia for a year while in school.

"It's fun, there are always new people," she said.

She brought along a work colleague, Fabien Huett, 28, from southern France, who lived in Paris for eight years. Like the participants from faraway lands, he says it has been difficult for him to meet Parisians.

Marcus Grambau, 24, was on a two-month visit in Paris from Melbourne. "I didn't want to spend two months here alone," he said. The first event Grambau attended was on Bastille Day.

For the national holiday, Brichant hosted a party at his parents' apartment, which has a view of the Eiffel Tower. When the fireworks set off from the Parisian landmark, the international group had one

Good to know

 Sign up at fr.eniovourparis. com and fill out the questionnaire. Check what interests you — cultural, food, or nighttime events are some of the categories. Once logged in, you'll be able to see the calendar and who has signed up. Brichant and Giler also send out a weekly email newsletter to let people know what's coming up.

of the best seats in the city

to watch the show.

"If I hadn't joined the group, I would have been standing in the crowd like everyone else," Grambau said. Since meeting up with the

EnjoYourParis.com crowd, he's made friends with three French people and regularly meets them for drinks and dinner.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Honolulu City Council has approved a preliminary ban on shark tour businesses operating on Oahu; state law already prohibits such tours within 4.8 kilometres of the shore. Some say profiting from shark tours is disrespectful because native Hawaiians consider the animals to be sacred. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





A detailed view of the ceiling of the royal opera house at the palace of Versailles, outside Paris. The hall has reopened following renovations to make the gilded hall more fireproof.

Versailles opera house reopens

The royal opera house at the palace of Versailles has reopened after two years of renovations to make the gilded hall more fireproof.

The architectural gem with golden columns, elaborate mouldings and dangling chandeliers was especially vulnerable to fire, as much of the interior is made of wood. The \$19.8million US renovations included work to move heatcal circuits outside the building.
Versailles' opera hall was

inaugurated in 1770 for the wedding of Marie-Antoinette and the future Louis XVI. The renovations will allow the hall, which seats 660, to host a more ambitious lineup of concerts and operas. One high-light is a Jan. 9 concert by soprano Barbara Hendricks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel brands on Twitter

ONLINE What are you looking for when you follow a travel brand on Twitter? News? Deals? Exclusive offers? And which Twitter travel feeds are the most

DealBase.com researched airlines, hotels and booking sites on Twitter and found that of the brands sur-veyed, JetBlue's Twitter feed had the most followers mid-September with 1.2 million. Of the Travel booking websites DealBase looked at, Travelocity had the most followers with nearly 25,000 and among hotels. Marriott had the

most followers with more than 15,000.

Only a few brands surveyed by DealBase post exclusive offers via their Twit-ter feeds. They include Kimpton, Omni and the Joie de Vivre hotel brands, and among airlines, JetBlue and United.

Most but not all of the hotels, airlines and booking sites do, however, relay news of deals and offers via Twitter that they may also be announcing elsewhere, the survey found. Some also offer customer service assistance via Twitter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Convent hotels range from basic to upscale

Continued from page 17

Marienkron Abbey & Hotel, Mönchhof, Austria

Since the 1970s, the Sisters of the Cistercian Order have balanced their daily prayers with a running a full hydrotherapy resort.

These dynamic sisters offer a full wellbeing retreat at their convent, with up-beat fitness classes, medical diagnoses, aromatherapy massages, Tibetan meditation sessions, and vigorous runs and bike rides round their substantial grounds.

From about \$98 for full Convento do Carmo,

board; see marienkron.at.

Le Couvent D'Herepian & Benoit, Provence, France

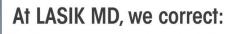
This 17th century convent, at the edge of the regional park of the Languedoc area in France, has been thoughtfully transformed into a luxury boutique hotel with spa. Nearby, Garrigae Resorts has also transformed a monastery into a resort with holiday homes in the heart of the former friary. From about \$190; garrigaeresort

Salvador, Brazil

The Brazilian city of Salvador is the heart of the country's mysterious Candomble religion, but this monastery was built by an order of Carmelite Friars in 1586. Now, it's the first luxury historic hotel in Brazil, and part of the Portuguese Pousadas chain which painstakingly and tastefully transforms castles, palaces, convents and monasteries into unique hotels. From about \$280; visit pestana.com.

Foresteria Venezia, Venice, Italy

staying in the heart of Venice with a view over the canal. Run by the Methodist church, and a stone's throw from the central square of St. Mark's, the accommodations might be basic but you can't argue with the location. The dorms are ideal for families, and there are doubles with en suite bathrooms for couples. Save here and you can splurge on a ride on an iconic gondola through the city. From about \$35, including breakfast; see www.foresteriavenezia.it.





Nearsightedness

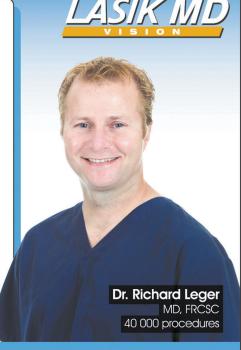


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20

Hasselhoff denies drunk allegation

David Hasselhoff is looking to correct rumours that he was taken to the hospital after collapsing drunk over the weekend. His lawyer said Hasselhoff had a bad reaction to a medication, according to Exposay. METRO WORLD NEWS

On the move **Entertainment** Matt Damon is moving to California so he can be closer to tors are currently raising voung daughters. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Trailer Park memories

Looking back at the hit TV show's funniest moments

PHIL BROWN for Metro Canada

Drug dealing, faking disability, excessive drinking, gunfights, pepperoni, and a shopping cart stealing racket.

Who could have guessed that these would be running gags on the most popular Canadian comedy series of the last decade? In 2001. Showcase took a risk by funding a weird mockumentary about a group of loveable low-level criminals called the Trailer Park Boys.

Today, Ricky, Julian, and Bubbles are Canadian pop culture icons.

The release of the gang's latest movie Trailer Park Boys: Countdown Liquor Day has arrived, and since it will be the final entry in the franchise (for now), it seems like a good time to look back at some of the funniest moments in the history of The Trailer Park Boys.

Kidnaps Ricky Rush: Perhaps the most beloved episode of the series (for good reason) has got to be the one in which Ricky kidnaps Alex Lifeson from Rush when Bubbles is unable to get tickets to his concert. This led to a private concert for the boys and also helped transform the cult series into a na-

tion-wide phenomena. **Best Line:** "This isn't kidnapping, I'm borrowing

Movie feature

you for a little bit." Ricky (while escorting Alex Lifeson at gunpoint)

2) Feeding A Dog Brownies: In one of the finest episodes from the first season, Ricky attempts to babysit his daughter and a neighbour's dog with disastrous results. Ricky ends up getting shot by his daughter and accidentally feeding the dog a tray of special brownies. The result was a hilarious and boundary-breaking 20 minutes that helped set the tone for the rest of the se-

Best Line: "The dog is on dope, you guys are intelli-gent." Sam Losco (veterinarian)

3) Know what I'm sayin?: One of the more beloved secondary characters on the series has got to be J-Roc, the incredibly white leader of the trailer park's hip-hop community who fancies himself the next Eminem. The problem is that he doesn't quite have the same skill or connections, but does have an irritating tendency to spawn his own catch phrases and run them into the ground. None of which are quite as entertaining as his inability to end any sentence without adding a 'know-what-I'm-savin."

Best Line: "Why you always counting my 'knowwhat-I'm-sayin's? Are you takin' a know-what-I'm-census?" J-Roc



Trailer Park Boys: New movie marks end of the franchise.

Conky: In season four the series had reached a new level of popularity and was awarded a larger budget. As a result creator Mike Clattenburg and co. made a season filled with ambitious and surreal plotlines that expanded the possibilities of the show. None of these new developments were as bizarre or memorable as Bubbles' hand puppet Conky that seemed to take over the

show's most lovable personality. A fan favorite and a series highlight. **Best Line:** "Those were

excellent negotiation tactics vou used. Patrick Swayze." Conky
5) The Hash Drive-

way: In season five the boys decided to conceal a massive collection of hash by melting it down into the world's most potent driveway. Nuff said.

Best Line: All of them.

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critics'corner_

ere's a saying that God is in e details, but ABC hopes the e details, but ABC hopes the will sin the ratings with this w TV series adapted from the hn Updike novel and 1987 ovie hit "The Witches of East-ck." Lindsay Price, Rebecca mijn and Jaime Ray New-an star as three women in a sw England village who are away together by a handsome. awn together by a handsome wcomer (Paul Gross, "Due outh") who unleashes unique wers in them. Sara Rue, Venica Cartwright and Johann b co-star. 8 PM on ACCESS



to imagine "ER" with ocsional dashes of the zany crubs," and you have a pretty od handle on this new dramv. which stars Taylor Schilling Veronica, one of three nurses the heart of the action. And e has plenty of personal action ing on, with a controlling hub-(Diego Klattenhoff) at home d a charming doc (James oper) from her Iraq tour on the Michelle Trachtenberg also ars. 9 PM on CKAL

Blackmail case begins in Bahamas

PEOPLE

Opening arguments have begun in the trial of two people accused of trying to blackmail



John Travolta following his son's death in the Bahamas.

The movie star is among the witnesses expected to testify but he was not in the Nassau courtroom as the proceedings began.

A former Bahamas senator and an ambulance driver allegedly demanded \$25 million to stop them from publicizing a document related to the treatment of Travolta's 16-year-old son. lett Travolta died from a seizure at a family vacation home in January.

Eminem takes Apple to court

MUSIC Eminem's music publisher wants a bigger

slice from Apple. Eight Mile Style LLC is suing Apple Inc., claiming it never authorized the use of 93 songs in a downloadable format on the popular iTunes service. The publisher is alleging copyright infringement.

A trial is scheduled for today unless a deal is reached. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

entertainment 21

Smith's doctors were warned

Pharmacists issued caution: Affidavits

A Los Angeles pharmacist told reality TV star Anna Nicole Smith's internist that the drugs the internist prescribed to the model after her son died were "pharmaceutical sui-cide," according to unsealed documents written by state officials.

Smith's doctors were warned about prescription drugs by three pharmacists, according to unsealed affidavits obtained Monday by the Los Angeles Times.

The pharmacist refused to fill the prescriptions and later recalled thinking, "They are going to kill her with this."

The documents are part of an investigation of the role that Smith's doctors. psychiatrist Khristine Eroshevich and internist Sandeep Kapoor, had in her overdose death in February 2007.

physicians The Smith's boyfriend and attorney Howard K. Stern pleaded not guilty May 13 to



According to unsealed affidavits, three pharmacists warned reality TV star Anna Nicole Smith's doctors about overprescribing drugs.

conspiring to illegally provide her with controlled substances.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for next month.

In court papers filed last week, prosecutors said they plan to call the model's bodyguard and Larry Birkhead, the father of her daughter as witnesses.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Locklear reprises Melrose role

TV Heather Locklear is reprising her signature role as scheming Amanda Woodward on its



updated version of Melrose Place, the CW network announced Tuesday.

Locklear will make her debut appearance Nov. 17 on the prime-time soap. The revived Melrose Place premiered earlier this month.

The 47-year-old Locklear joined the original Melrose Place in 1993, at the end of the first season

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS







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Khloe Kardashian is not wasting time on wedding planning. After only a month of dating, the reality star will wed L.A. Laker Lamar Odom on Sunday, leaving time for a honeymoon before the Lakers preseason begins Oct. 7, usmagazine.com has confirmed. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Suri's girly sartorial habits

LITTLE ADULT Suri Cruise, three, retained her chic child status Monday, sporting a pair of high heels while shopping with mom Katie Holmes in Boston (where Tom Cruise is shooting his new action comedy, Wichita), usmag azine.com reports.

"Suri's very much like her mother," Cruise told Hello!

magazine year. will last "She not wear trousers, only dresses. I put a pair of trousers on her and

turn and leave the room and straight away the trousers are off and a dress is on instead!

"The other day, Kate showed her some goldcoloured sneakers thinking she might like to wear them, and she looked at them and said, 'Oh mommy, these are lovely, but they're boy shoes," he added. "She's sweet, but

very she's strongwilled like iust her mother. METRO

SERVICES

Jessica devastated without Daisy

LIFE PARTNER After losing beloved maltipoo Daisy to a coyote attack last week, friends fear Jessica Simpson may be at the lowest point of her life, people.com reports.

"Daisy was her baby," one of them told people. com. "It's going to put her into a tailspin. It will put her into the worst place

But another source close to the actress says she's coping better than her friends may realize.

"She's really upset, but she's not spiralling out of control by any means," this source said. "She'll get through this but it is like losing a family member.

Daisy was perhaps one of the most pampered pets in Hollywood. Simpson fed Daisy steak, not dog and re-

ferred to herself as "Daisy's Mommy." When leaving the house, Simpson left on the aircondition-

food,

ing for her dog:

when Daisy was sick, Simpson refused visitors so that they wouldn't wake Daisy. She threw Daisy birthday parties, and when she talked about

having a "girls' night in" with a video, she was talking about herself and Daisy.

Whenever was out at night, Simpson called home and had "someone put Daisy on the phone so she could say goodnight." "Daisy ran

the house-

friend said. "If Daisy didn't like you, you were gone. Sometimes if her regular hair and makeup people weren't available and Jessica had a sit-in, if Daisy didn't like them, they wouldn't be back."

"Jessica has a very small inner circle," the friend said. "But she always had Daisy. Daisy gave her unconditional love.'

All of the sources agreed on one point: It's been a tough year for Jessica Simpson.

"I want her to catch a break," the first friend METRO NEWS SERVICES

JoBros the best men

PRE-WEDDING PLANS Kevin firmed to People on the Toronto set of Camp Rock Jonas, the oldest Jonas Brother, has chosen a best man for his wedding to fiancée Danielle Deleasa, people.com reports Make that best men.

Can we change the subject?

now,"

cording to

about it

"I decided that it's going to be both Joe and Nick,' Kevin, 21, con-

HOW RUDE No one is more

tired of talking about

Kanye West's interruption

of Taylor Swift at the VMAs

than Swift herself. The

young singer walked

out of an interview in

Florida recently when

the DJ wouldn't ask

about anything else.

could talk about

something else,

appreciate

because

"I really would

I've

if we

2: The Final Jam. "Dani has an older and a vounger sister, so it works out really well. I can have two best men, and she can have two maids of honour.'

asked you three times

Swift pleaded, ac-

METRO NEWS

still love the old Jon: Kate

PINING FOR THE PAST Kate Gosselin still loves Jon but not the man she knows now, people.com reports.

"I miss Jon, the Jon I used to know," she told the audience at the Southern Women's Show in N.C., Charlotte. on Thursday.

She also opened up to the crowd of 700 about her failed marriage, adds usmagazine.com.

She revealed that the last year before the breakup, she

and estranged husband Jon had considered moving from Wernersville, Pa. where they own a \$1.1

million US home and building a new the timing was bad.
"Our kids' school and our church kept us there,' she said. "It was scary to move so far away.'

pad in North Carolina. But

When a woman told Gosselin she identifies with her because she recently split with her boyfriend, Gosselin told her, "I don't think you want to talk to me about boyfriends

breaking up."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Justin and Rihanna dating in secret?

Hollyscoop. "I'm trying to be nice first. co.uk reports.

> out a word. METRO WORLD

berlake looks set to break a million hearts after he allegedly began dating Rihanna in secret, femalemoured

that the pair had split. Īt's no secret that Timberlake

and Rihanna have been friends for a while now. but one source is claiming the two are more than friends.

According to a source for Heatworld, "Justin and Rihanna have been seeing each other for the past few weeks. He is really into her and it's only a matter of time before he dumps Jes-METRO NEWS SERVICES

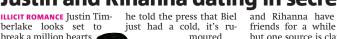
Celebrity tweets

Lindsay Lo han doesn't approve of Samantha Ronson's activities, Kirstie Alley is filling up her week, and Ashton Kutcher tries to get some perspective.

@sevinnyne6126 Nice to see @samantharonson has found a party rather than being honest

@kirstiealley I start, tomorrow, dancing 2 hours a day..YAY...2 days a week. 2 days circuit training and swimming and 2 days hiking and biking..I'm READY!! @aplusk If we all threw our problems in a pile and





But when the DJ didn't get the point

and kept asking about the incident, Swift calmly stood up and left Timberlake turned the studio withup at The Emmys without his girlfriend Jessica Biel, and though NEWS



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Thursday Mostly sunny 26 c / 10 c





		1	2	3			4	5	6			
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10						11					12	
13					14							15
16				17						18		
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33			34						35			
	36			Г		Γ		37			Г	
		38						39				
			40					41				

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone - one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	3	4	8					
6				9				2
				6				1
3		2			6		9	
8	9						3	4
	6		1			7		8
7				5				
1				4				6
					7	2	5	

1 Remuneration – Aviv 7 Java neighbour 8 Subject 10 Bert's roomie 11 Left 13 "Good Golly Miss Molly" singer 16 Crucial 17 Denounces 18 Seek damages 19 Not so much 20 Rope material 21 Tolerate

23 Parliamentarians 25 Eager, plus 26 Cage components 27 Witty one 28 Feel one's way 30 Sprite 33 Horn blower

of rhyme 36 Thelma's pal 37 O. Henry's specialty 38 Over and done with 39 California

On the web

wine valley 40 Acquire 41 "Holy cow!"

1 Dorm-raid prize 2 Settled down 3 Gave way 4 Poison 5 Grand tales 6 Stone (Suff.) 7 Spreadable cheese 8 Contract claus-

10 Wapiti 12 Starr's gear 14 Facility 15 Passbook abbr. 19 Cover

9 Stopped

20 Store-front sign abbr. 21 Use 22 Hallux

> gery, for short 24 Following orders 25 Piercing tool 26 Judicially clad

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

23 Slimming sur-

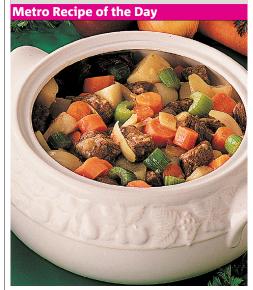
28 Move graceful-29 Put back to ze-

ro 30 Run off to wed 31 Moth variety

32 Palin portrayer Tina 34 Mao Tse-

35 Highland hill-

Take Five



Cider Beef Stew

INGREDIENTS:

2 lbs (1 kg) beef stew meat, cut into 1-in. (2.5 cm) cubes 2 tbsp (25 mL) canola oil 3 cups (750 mL) apple cider or juice 2 tbsp (25 mL) cider vine-

2 tsp (10 mL) salt, optional 1/4 to 1/2 tsp (1 to 2 mL) dried thyme 1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper 3 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed 4 medium carrots, cut into

3/4-in. (2 cm) pieces 3 celery ribs, cut into 3/4-in. (2 cm) pieces 2 medium onions, cut into

1/4 cup (50 mL) all-purpose flour 1/4 cup (50 mL) water

1. In Dutch oven, brown

beef on all sides in oil over medium-high heat; drain. Add cider, vinegar, salt if desired, thyme and pepper; bring to boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 1 1/4 hours. 2. Add potatoes, carrots,

celery and onions; return to boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 30-35 minutes or until beef and vegetables are tender. 3. Combine flour and water until smooth; stir into

stew. Bring to boil; cook and stir 2 minutes or until slightly thickened.

rd.ca

For nutritional info mation on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIFS

MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Today's Mars-Jupiter link-up is full of potential, especially if you are the sort of Aries who acts fast and likes to be first.

LIBRA SEPT 23-OCT 23

Is a certain person's optimism justified? Maybe, maybe not, but what happens today will convince you that it is better to be positive in your outlook.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

Make sure you listen to both sides of the story you are about to be told. Be aware of all view-

OCT 24-NOV 22

Strive to make an impression on powerful people — even if you are the sort of Scorpio who does not like to draw attention

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21
Seek out people who know how to enjoy themselves and avoid those who seem to carry the weight of the world on their shoulders

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

There is precious little you cannot do today. With Jupiter, your ruler, linked to fiery Mars your energy and enthusiasm make all things possible.

CANCER

You may be behind in your work and you may have fallen short of your aims, but what of it? Life isn't just about earning a living and getting ahead.

4 7 2 9 1 6 8 5 3

7 3 6 4 1

8

3 4 9

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6 4 5 8 2

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2

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6

2 4 8 3 5 9 6

3 9 6

2

CAPRICORN **DEC 22-JAN 20**

If you push your luck too far the powers that be will not be amused, and you won't be laughing either when you have to pay a penalty of some sort.

LFO JULY 23-AUG 23

The Sun, your ruler, and power planet Pluto form an explosive angle today, but you need to know what you are capable of.

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18

You need to have faith in people today, especially if you are one of those Aquarians who looks at the world as if it is hoping to cheat you.

VIRGO

There is not much point trying to deny that you have made a mess of something because everyone can see the less than impressive results.

FEB 19-MARCH 20
Today's Mars-Jupiter link-up will do wonders for your self-belief and you will most likely attempt something you were too afraid to try in the past.







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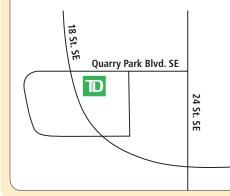


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